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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE 1959

Office of Information

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

HARVESTING AND MARKETING PEACHES

In South Carolina and Georgia

PHOTO SERIES NO. 37

APRIL 1959

Georgia and South Carolina are the leading southern peach producing States. Growers in these two States produced nearly 9 million bushels of peaches in 1958, valued at \$20 million. Most of the peaches are sold as fresh fruit. These two States grow many early varieties, principally for Northeast and Midwest markets. At harvest time, many workers pick, grade, and prepare the fruit for shipment. Railroad refrigerator cars and trailer-trucks are used to rush the peaches to market. These USDA photographs were taken in South Carolina and Georgia for the Agricultural Marketing Service.



N-28002--Orchard owner in Piedmont area of South Carolina inspects peaches to see if they are suitably ripe for picking and shipping to market. Peaches on this tree are of the Red Haven variety, which matures early.



N-28001--Orchard workers load field boxes of peaches onto tractor-drawn field wagon for hauling to packing house. Pickers on right put picked peaches into canvas bags strapped to their shoulders. When bags are filled, they are emptied into field boxes.



N-28030--Tractor driver at right in holding shed in South Carolina starts trailer load of filled field boxes of peaches to packing house. This holding shed is used to keep peaches out of hot sun until the fruit can be moved to packing house. Electric fans in gable of shed keep air circulating.



N-28105--Workers in Georgia unload field boxes of peaches at packing shed platform. Boxes move by gravity over roller conveyor toward grading line. After field boxes are emptied, they are returned over another conveyor system to yard where they are picked up and carried back to orchards.

Magazines and newspapers may obtain glossy prints of any of these photographs from the Photography Division, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. Others may purchase prints (8 x 10) at \$1.00 each from the same address.



N-28044--Field boxes being emptied onto conveyor belt by automatic dumper.



N-28012--Workers at peach grading table sort out cull peaches as fruit moves over rollers. Inclined table keeps peaches from bunching. This is initial grading step before peaches move on roller conveyor to sizing machine.



N-28015--Workers at double grading table in a South Carolina packing house remove culls and overripe peaches as fruit moves on roller conveyors. Smaller conveyor belts at eye level of workers carry culled fruit away from main line. Peaches not culled continue moving toward sizing machines.



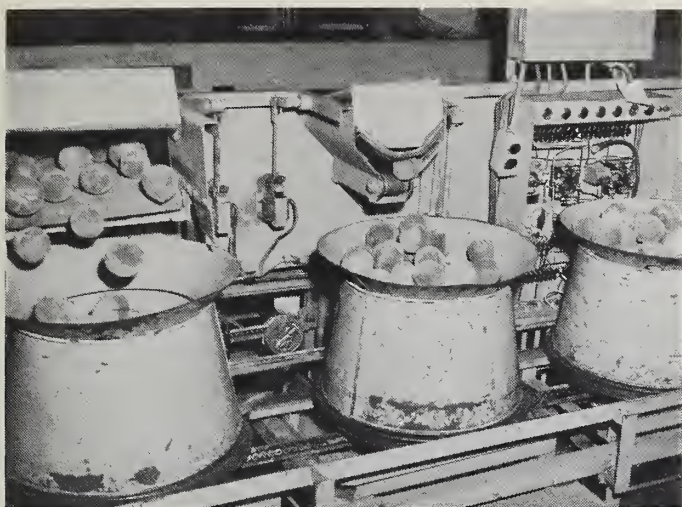
N-28051--Peaches moving onto sizing machine in modern South Carolina packing house. Sizer has turning rollers set at different widths, and as peaches move along these rollers the fruit is dropped onto conveyor belts for moving to the packing station.



N-28006--Ring packers in a South Carolina packing house preparing "faces" of Red Haven peaches to go on top of packed 3/4-bushel baskets.



N-28016--In some places students help with peach packing during school vacation.



N-28021--Peaches drop into metal basket forms, and are automatically weighed. Forms are for 3/4-bushel baskets. If door on left closes before form is filled to proper weight, door at right lets additional peaches drop into form until full weight is reached. Chain conveyor carries filled forms to basket area.



N-28020--Checker in a Gaffney, S. C., packing house pulls ring facer's numbered tag from filled baskets of peaches. Checker keeps count on machine of rings filled by individual workers, and also checks appearance of the top layer of peaches in numbered basket.



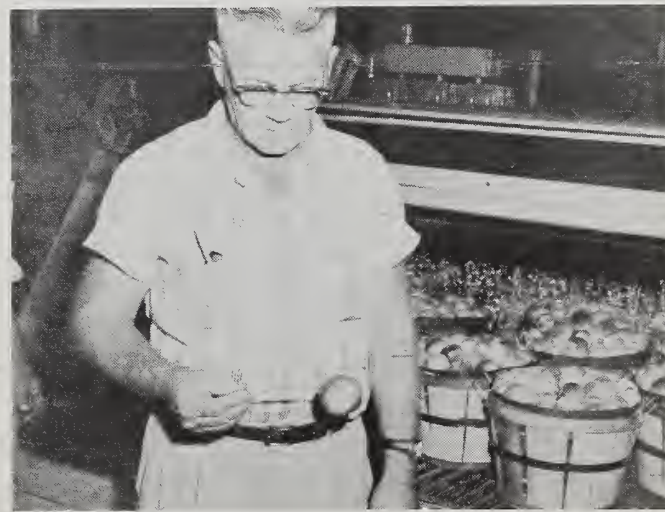
N-28055--A Federal-State inspector at Fort Valley, Ga., checks size of peach with official sizing device to determine whether the fruit meets size specifications.



N-28054--Federal-State inspector at Fort Valley, Ga., checks sample peach for maturity.



N-28008--Worker in a South Carolina peach packing house places filled baskets of peaches in hydrocooler. Cold water bath lowers temperature of fruit to as low as 40 degrees Fahrenheit.



N-28057--Federal-State inspector at a Georgia packing house checks temperature of peach that has passed through hydrocooler in background. Hydrocooling helps keep peaches in condition for shipping. Fruit is moved immediately from hydrocooler into ice-cooled railroad refrigerator cars or truck trailers.



N-28004--Workers in South Carolina packing house assemble consumer-size cartons for holding hand-packed, tree-ripened peaches. Worker in background shapes up cartons while other worker operates punching machine which molds cells in the carton into which peaches are snugly packed.



N-28005--Peaches of uniform size and good color are selected by these workers for a special consumer pack of tree-ripened fruit. Cartons each hold eight peaches, which have been hydrocooled and waxed.



N-28009--Packer places cartons, each holding eight tree-ripened peaches, into wirebound shipping crate. Crate holds sixteen cartons.



N-28061--Worker at a Fort Valley, Ga., packing house loads filled baskets of peaches into refrigerator car. Filled baskets move by chain conveyor directly from packing floor into car.



N-28042--Truck trailer being loaded with 1/2-bushel baskets of peaches at a Georgia packing house for shipment to large eastern market. Trailer holds 1,036 half-bushels, with baskets stacked in staggered rows six layers deep. Trailer is cooled with ice, and may be re-iced several times on its way to market, depending upon the distance.